(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the established conventions to stipulate the royalty rates; and

(d) by when the rates of royalty are proposed to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) In addition to royalty on coal, several State Governments had in the past imposed cesses on coal. The Acts imposing such cesses had been struck down by the Supreme Court and the High Courts except in the case of West Bengal the Acts of the State are pending the decision of the Supreme Court. As the cesses in West Bengal are levied at a rate much higher than the royalty on coal, the rates of coal royalty introduced in August, 1991 are continuing in the State of West Bengal. A representation from the Government of West Bengal requesting for the extension of coal royalty at the current rates has been received.

(c) Since 1968 the royalty rates on coal have been stipulated on tonnage basis.

(d) The mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 does not contemplate the automatic revision of royalties on minerals after any specified period.

Revision in the rates of royalty on coal

.437. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group set up for revision in the rates of royalty on coal has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Coal had constituted a Study Group on 28.1.97 to interact with the coal producting States and the consuming bodies and to submit a report on the matter for assisting the Government in considering a revision in the rates of royalty. The Study Group has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Group are under consideration of the Government.

गुजरात को कोयले की आपूर्ति

438. **श्री अनन्तराव देवशंकर दवे:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात में विद्युत संयंत्रों, सीमेंट संयंत्रों और रेलवे के लिए कोयले की वार्षिक मांग कितनी रही है;

(ख) उक्त वर्षों के दौरान इन क्षेत्रों को कोयले की कितनी मात्रा में आपूर्ति की गई;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इन क्षेत्रों को इनकी मांग के अनुरूप कोयले की पर्याप्त मात्रा में आपूर्ति नहीं की जाती है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) राज्य में इन सबको उनकी आवश्यकतानुसार कोयले की आपूर्ति किए जाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री(श्री दिलीप राय): (क) और (ख) गुजरात में कोल इंडिया लि. के साथ संयोजित कोई कोयला आधारित इस्पात संयंत्र नहीं है। रेलवे की आपूर्ति हेतु को,इ.लि. के स्रोतो की भी मांग नहीं है। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात में कोयले की विद्युत तथा सीमेंट क्षेत्रों में मांग तथा आपूर्ति का ब्यौरा नीचे दर्शाया गया है :-

('000 टन में)

वर्ष	विद्युत		सीमेंट	
	मांग	आपूर्ति	मांग	आपूर्ति
1995-96	15120	13684	1239	377
1996-97	14025	13806	944	345
1997-98 (अनं.)	15150	16012	382	39

(ग) और (घ) गुजरात में विद्युत क्षेत्र को की जाने वाली कोयले की आपूर्ति न्यूनाधिक रूप से स्वीकृत संयोजन के आधार पर की जाती है। वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान आपूर्ति, संयोजन से अधिक था। वर्ष 1995-96 और 1996-97 के दौरान आपूर्ति संयोजन से थोडा कम था।

गुजरात के सीमेंट संयंत्र, स्वीकृत संयोजन के अनुसार कोयला प्राप्त नहीं कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने कोयले के संचलन संबंधी कार्यक्रम को भी प्रस्तुत नहीं किया है। गुजरात

स्थित कुछ संयंत्र कोयले की अपनी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति हेतु कोयले का आयात कर रहे हैं।

(ड) कोयला कंपनियां गुजरात स्थित इन क्षेत्रों की कोयले की मांग पूर्णत: पूरी करने की स्थिति में है।

Import of custom free Nepalese Vanaspati

439. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed total custom duty exemption on the import of Nepalese Vanaspati;

(b) if so, what is its overall impact on the Indian Vanaspati industry in the country;

(c) whether the Indian Vanaspati manufacturers have protested against the import of custom free Nepalese Vanaspati; and

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to reconsider its decision; if not, why?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Under the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, Government of India provides access to the Indian market free of customs duties and quantitives restrictions for all articles manufactured in Nepal, including Vanaspati, except for the articles in the Negative List annexed to the Treaty. If this facility leads to a surge in the imports of particular article from Nepal, appropriate action is to be taken after mutual consultation between the two Governments.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Representations are being received from the Indian Vanaspati manufacturers and others protesting against import of Vanaspati from Nepal. They are being considered in the context of the provisions of the Treaty.

Industrial production and exports

440. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed forth growth of industrial production and exports during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the achievements made so far;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The target rate of growth of industrial production for 1996-97 was 6.8%. Ministry of Industry have informed that no such target was fixed for 1997-98. The target rate of growth of industrial production for 1996-97 has been achieved as actual industrial growth rate during the year 1996-97 was 7.1%. The overall industrial growth rate during the year 1997-98 was 4.2%. A target growth of 20% in US$ terms and 18% in US$ terms was envisaged for exports during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The export target fixed could not be achieved during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98. As per the provisional data of DGCI&S, the growth rate achieved in dollar terms were 4.01% and 2.64% and in Rupee terms 10.39% and 7.45% during 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(d) Export performance is influenced interalia by international market conditions, infrastructure facilities and policy framework. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing suitable environment, involvement of States in export promotion and consultation with Trade and Industry. Some of the recent steps taken in this regard include modification in DEPB rates, announcing of DEPB rate for about 300 new export items, preparing a medim term strategy for growth of exports, launching of Focus LAC Scheme and strengthening incentive schemes.

Performance of leather industry

441. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be please to state:

(a) the performance of leather industry during 1997-98 in terms of the targets set;

(b) the details of fresh additional investment made in the leather industry to harness its huge export potential;

(c) whether Government did formulate a comprehensive plan of action to score a lead